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effect created by the sounds, albeit somewhat untutored issuing from 4,000 little throats in such well-known compositions as the "Old Hundredth" and the "Hallelujah," is one which has already struck with wonder many distinguished visitors whom curiosity has led to this annual festival; and we are now glad to find, for the sake of musical progress, that some innovation is likely to be made upon the time-honoured selection usually performed. Mendelssohn's sublime *Chorale*, "Sleepers wake," is now substituted for the 113th Psalm, "Ye saints and servants of the Lord;" and we see no reason why music especially written for this occasion should not replace some, which good as it is of its kind, may be said, without irreverence to any of the old church writers, to have had its day. We have men now living who *can* write—the respected organist of the cathedral himself, for example—and how could their talent be better employed than in showing that Dr. William Boyce and Dr. Crotch have no right to hold an exclusive and perpetual patent in "Te Deums" and "Jubilates?"

MISS MACIRONE'S SOIRÉE MUSICALE.

THE concert of this artist—already well known as a sterling *pianiste* and composer, not only of some graceful part-music, but of several works of a more elaborate character—took place on the 7th ult., at the Hanover Square Rooms. Miss Macirone's performance throughout the evening was characterised by the most musicianlike feeling, and a fluency of execution which made every phrase speak to her audience. Amongst her own compositions, an exceedingly clever Sonata in F, for pianoforte and violin, was performed for the first time by the composer and Herr Joachim; and several choral works, which were most effectively sung by Miss J. Wells, Miss Eyles, Mr. Benson, and Mr. Lawler. Some of these are really beautiful, and will no doubt become general favorites. We must particularly mention one of Scott's words, "The sun shines fair on Carlisle's wall," which has a delicious flavour of the old part-writing, and is moreover one easily approached by amateurs. A most captivating "Savoyard's song," also the composition of Miss Macirone, sung to perfection by Miss Sabilla Novello, although stated in the programme to be in manuscript, will not we think be long allowed to remain so.

MADAME PUZZI'S CONCERT.

THIS morning concert, always one of the most popular of the season, took place at the Hanover Square Rooms, on the 30th of May, before a numerous audience. It would be impossible to enumerate one half the compositions which formed the programme of a performance thoroughly Italian in character, and therefore contrasting well with the many classical concerts which are now rather the rule than the exception. Madame Puzzi had secured the services of many of the best Italian singers, amongst whom may be named Signori Giuglini, Gardoni, Frizzi, Delle Sedie, and Gassier. Madame Parepa, Miss Banks, Mdlle. Enequist, Mdlle. Louise Liebhart, and Miss Lascelles also contributed several vocal compositions; and pianoforte solos were performed by Signor Andreoli and M. Ascher.

MR. WALTER MACFARREN'S PIANOFORTE RECITALS.

THE three Pianoforte performances of this accomplished professor have fully maintained his reputation as an exponent of the highest classical music; and we have pleasure in recording our satisfaction at the result, not only on Mr. Macfarren's account, but as a wholesome protest against that anti-national feeling which is too apt to pass over English worth, and fall into raptures over foreign mediocrity. The programmes at each of the concerts have been composed of the most solid materials; Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Mendelssohn, &c., furnishing the works of the highest pretension; and the lighter

compositions of Chopin, Heller, Potter, and the concert-giver himself, being judiciously placed as a contrast. At the last concert on the 18th ult., a new sonata, by Mr. Walter Macfarren, for pianoforte and violin, was excellently performed by the composer and M. Sainton. This work produced a marked effect. It is well written for both instruments, and gives undoubted proof of its author having modelled his style upon that of the best writers of this solid form of composition.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

THE combined performance in aid of the funds of this national institution took place on the 24th ult., at Her Majesty's Theatre. A very excellent programme was given, including selections from Nicolai's opera "Falstaff," "Le Nozze di Figaro," and "La Sonnambula," in which most of the leading Italian vocalists belonging to Her Majesty's Theatre took part. One portion of the concert was entirely entrusted to the pupils of the Academy; and in this the clever pianist, Miss Agnes Zimmermann, played the Choral Fantasia and the vocalists were Misses Edith Wynne, Armytage, Sophia Neighbour, and Emily Pitt, all of whom acquitted themselves to the utmost satisfaction of a discriminating audience.

Brief Summary of Country News.

DUNDEE.—The last concert for the season of the Philharmonic Society was given in the Corn Exchange, on Tuesday, the 14th ult. Several movements from some of the great Symphonies were well executed by the band of the society. The solos and choruses were all well sung, and the concert was altogether most successful.

FERRYHILL.—A new organ was opened in Ferryhill Church, on Sunday, May 22nd, built by Mr. R. Postill, of York.

HENLEY-ON-THAMES.—The second anniversary of the Reading and Henley Church Choral Association was held at Henley, on Tuesday, May 31st. At the Morning Service the Lord Bishop of Oxford preached the sermon; and the singing of the united choirs, which numbered about 315, was such as to call forth, at a subsequent period of the day, words of hearty approval, and their efficiency reflects great credit on the Choir-master, Mr. Strickland. In the afternoon there was full choral service, which was still more perfect than that of the morning. The service was intoned by the Coadjutor Bishop of Edinburgh. Mr. Pearson, the organist of Henley Church, presided most efficiently at the organ.

PORTLAND.—A concert, under the direction of Mr. Alcock, took place at the School-room, Fortune's Well, on Tuesday, the 21st ult. Mrs. J. O. Andrews, Mr. Alcock, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Acot were the soloists. The choir sang several part-songs, choruses, &c., among which were three new part-songs by Hatton, viz., "The Belfry Tower," "Come, celebrate the May," and "England;" Macfarren's "Adieu, love, adieu," and several others, all of which were very successful. Mr. Moffatt presided at the pianoforte.

READING.—The second and concluding "open night" of the Philharmonic Society took place on the 2nd ult., when Haydn's Oratorio the *Creation* was given. The band was strengthened by several professional players; and in every respect the performance reflected the highest credit upon the society. Of the principal vocalists we can speak most favourably, especially of Miss Binfield, who sang the airs "The marvellous work," and "On mighty pens," extremely well, and Madame Goodhind, who created a genuine effect in "With verdure clad." Praise must also be awarded to Mr. Benford, Mr. H. B. Blandy, Mr. Brain, Dr. Guinness, Mr. Robert Bradley, and the Rev. — Shuttleworth, who sang all the solos allotted to them in an exceedingly creditable manner. This society, which numbers amongst its members some

of the most influential residents of the town, has now taken a high position; and we cannot conclude without bestowing the utmost praise upon the exertions of the conductor, Mr. W. H. Strickland; the leader, Mr. W. H. Birch, and the accompanist, Mr. Burton, who are all eminently fitted for their respective posts.

STRATHFIELDSAYE.—The North Hants Choral Union held their second annual meeting at Strathfieldsaye on the 9th ult. After divine service the members adjourned to a tent, where they dined, and where they were addressed by several influential gentlemen, who warmly complimented the ladies and schoolmasters of the district for having brought the choir to such a state of proficiency.

STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES.—The Potteries Tonic Sol-fa Prize Choirs gave a very satisfactory performance of Haydn's *Spring*, at their annual festival of Flowers and Song in the Town Hall, Burslem, on the Queen's Birthday, May 24th. The soloists were Miss Randalls, Mr. Wood, and Mr. Gibson, members of the choir. Mr. Powell conducted; Mr. Cadman led the band; Mr. T. Hulme played the wind parts on the harmonium. The second part of the concert consisted of songs, duets, unaccompanied part-songs, &c.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—On Tuesday evening, the 14th ult., a miscellaneous concert was given at the Assembly Rooms. During the first part Mr. Lewis Nanton read several scenes from *Macbeth*, and the whole of Locke's music was performed. The second part of the programme consisted of songs, duets, madrigals, &c. Miss Charlotte Knight, Miss Pauline Burette, Mr. Gough, and Mr. Cross, were the principal vocalists.

WORCESTER.—The Festival Choral Society gave its last concert of the season, at the Music-hall, on the 21st ult. The principals were Miss Banks, and Messrs. Price and Smith of the cathedral choir, whose performance gave general satisfaction to the large and fashionable audience. The programme consisted of a miscellaneous selection, including part of Benedict's new cantata "Richard Cœur de Lion." Mr. Taylor presided at the pianoforte. Being the conclusion of the present season, we must congratulate the conductor, Mr. Done, on the flourishing state of this popular society, which is a proof of his able superintendence.

On Friday, the 3rd ult., at the rehearsal of the Walworth Choral Union, the members of the 2nd or "B" vocal class presented their conductor, Mr. J. J. Cayley, with a handsome testimonial in token of their gratitude and esteem. It consisted of two volumes, beautifully bound and gilt-lettered, comprising Mendelssohn's *Althalie*, *Edipus Coloneus*, and *Christus*, and was presented by Mr. E. Jones, who delivered a neat and well-pointed address.

On Monday, the 6th ult., a grand national concert was given by Mr. Jennings's choir, at the Music Hall, Store Street. The choir sang Bishop's "Where art thou beam of light," "La Garibaldini," by Ardit; Hatton's "England," and several other good part-songs and choruses. Mr. and Mrs. Jennings, Miss Charlotte Grosvenor, Miss Melville, Mr. Vernon Rigby, Mr. Crozier, Mr. Corri, and Mr. G. A. Cooper, were the principal vocalists. The St. George's Rifle Band, conducted by Mr. Haydn Millar, performed several instrumental selections during the evening.

On the evening of the 13th ult., the annual soirée of the Christian Community was held at the London Tavern, under the presidency of R. Baxter, Esq. During the evening several anthems and chorales were sung by a select choir, under the direction of Mr. J. Edwards.

On Friday, the 17th ult., a concert was given at Messrs. Collard's rooms, by Madame Eugène Oswald. The performers were Madame Eugène Oswald, Herr Jansa, Mr. H. Webb, M. Paque, Mr. Maycock, and Mr. Reynolds; Madame Oliviero and Mr. Wilbye Cooper were the vocalists engaged on this occasion. The concert

commenced with a quartett (by Hummel) for pianoforte, violin, viola, violoncello, and contra-basso, which was performed by Madame E. Oswald, Herr Jansa, M. Paque, and Mr. Reynolds. Madame E. Oswald, among other pieces, played a sonata in D for the pianoforte, by Beethoven, with great brilliancy; a duet of Mendelssohn's, for pianoforte and violoncello, was given with much taste and expression by Madame E. Oswald and M. Paque. The concert terminated with a trio of Mozart's for pianoforte, clarinet, and viola.

MYDDELTON HALL, ISLINGTON.—A concert was given at this Hall, on the 16th ult., when a programme, embracing the names of several eminent vocalists and instrumentalists was provided. Amongst the solo vocalists, Miss Robertine Henderson, Miss Louisa Van Noorden, and Miss Lizzie Wilson created a marked effect, the latter lady being encored in two or three of her songs, and receiving much applause in "Home, sweet home," which she sang in place of a song set down for Miss S. Cole, who was absent. The instrumentalists were Madame Lucy Augusta Lindley and Mr. Walter Macfarren (pianoforte), and Herr Carl Deichmann (violin).

POPLAR.—An interesting entertainment on behalf of the Poplar Ragged Schools took place, on the 24th May, at the New School-room, in the East India Road. The musical portion of the programme was well sustained by the ladies and gentlemen of the Poplar Glee and Madrigal Union, and the recitations, from the writings of Thomas Hood, were most effectively given by Mr. Kelson. The room was well filled, and it is to be hoped that a good sum will be realised for the benefit of the schools.

At a Convocation at the University of Cambridge, held on the 9th ult., Mr. J. Bradbury Turner, Professor at the Royal Academy of Music, passed the examination for the degree of Bachelor of Music.

The exercise for the degree of Mus. Bac. was performed in St. John's Chapel, on Monday the 20th ult.; the degree conferred on Mr. Waldemar Malmène, on Thursday, the 23rd ult.

The arrangements for the Hereford Musical Festival of 1864 seem to promise well, both in a musical and financial point of view. We understand that, as the altered position of the orchestra in the cathedral will deprive the oratorios of the cathedral organ, an arrangement has been made with Messrs. Gray and Davison, for the hire of an instrument, which will be placed in one of the aisles on the side of the orchestra. The chorus has been materially increased, and no exertion will be spared to render the approaching Festival one of the best which has yet taken place in Hereford. Mr. Townshend Smith has been most indefatigable in his endeavours to introduce good works which have been but too rarely heard, and on this occasion Spohr's *Fall of Babylon* (now rendered accessible to all by Novello's cheap edition) will be presented in a style commensurate with its great merits.

OTAGO.—The Dunedin Philharmonic Society has lately given a performance of the *Creation*, which is highly spoken of in the local papers. We are glad to see that the Choral Societies so rapidly springing up in all parts of the civilised world, are invariably devoted to the study of good music. At the last concert of this society we find that the *Messiah* was performed; and Professor Sterndale Bennett's cantata, "The May Queen," is in active preparation.

NEW YORK.—The Philharmonic Society gave their final concert of the season last month. Weston's *Weekly Art Journal* speaks in the highest terms of praise of the playing of Mr. Richard Hoffman in Hummel's beautiful pianoforte concerto in A minor. At the Brooklyn Philharmonic the following week, Mr. Hoffman played Mendelssohn's concerto in D minor, with the greatest success.

TORONTO.—A concert to inaugurate a new organ, erected by Messrs. E. and G. Hook, of Boston, took place

at the Elm Street Wesleyan Church, Toronto, on the 24th of May. The programme was classical throughout; and we have much pleasure in drawing attention to the state of the art amongst our Canadian brothers and sisters, in proof of the firm hold taken by the best works, wherever they have a fair chance of being heard. The organ was ably opened by Mr. Peiler, in a sonata of Mendelssohn's; and its capabilities were also tested by Mr. Martin, and John Camidge, Mus. Doc. Sacred vocal music was also sung by Miss Clayton, Miss Cross, Mrs. Beard, and Mr. Harvey.

ORGAN APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. A. W. Coleman has been appointed organist to the parish Church of St. Mary Matfelon, Whitechapel.—Mr. A. Hemstock to the parish Church, Diss, Norfolk.—Master Carmi Rollason to Christ Church, Coseley.—Mr. R. F. Blackbee, Sen., to St. Michael and All Angels, Hackney.—Mr. Samuel Gee to Christ Church, Clapham.—Mr. G. P. Merrick to SS. Peter and Paul, Wantage.—Mr. W. Scantlebury to the Wesleyan Chapel, Waterloo Road.—Miss Ferry to St. Paul's Church, Hendon, Sunderland.

OBITUARY.—June 6th, Mr. Samuel Spofforth, 57 years organist of Lichfield Cathedral. Aged 84 years.

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DURING THE LAST MONTH (continued).

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